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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/837,505	04/18/2001	Hongyi Zhou	EGS10130US	7923
Jie Sha Suite 3504 195 North Harbor Drive Chicago, IL 60601			EXAMINER CHOUDHURY, AZIZUL Q	
			ART UNIT 2143	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 07/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/837,505

Applicant(s)

ZHOU, HONGYI

Examiner

Azizul Choudhury

Art Unit

2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Detailed Action

Claim Objections

Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- The term "an" in the phrase "transmit an updates" should be omitted.
- The term "system" should be "systems".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dickinson (US Pat No: 5640565), hereafter referred to as Dickinson.

1. With regards to claim 1, Dickinson teaches a network of systems of personal and business web cards, comprising a plurality of servers with which users may sign up to keep their contact information and through which the users may search others' contact information, each of said servers having at least a database and a search engine, and having at least one uniform search interface (Dickinson teaches a design for electronic business cards for use in a network environment

(column 2, lines 20-44, Dickinson). It allows for users to browse (search) for business cards (column 7, line 49 – column 8, line 28, Dickinson). In addition, the design allows for an agreed upon search method, hence equivalent to the claimed uniform search interface. Furthermore, each workstations are equivalent to servers and since they have storage means, they are also equivalent to databases. Also, Dickinson's design for central stores which function as large databases for business cards (column 5, lines 15-27, Dickinson)).

2. With regards to claim 2, Dickinson teaches a network of systems wherein one of said servers functions as a master server that is equipped with at least one interface having protocols established to connect with said other servers (Dickinson's design allows for the use of one of many protocols, including TCP/IP for network communicating (column 5, line 56 – column 6, line 3, Dickinson). In addition, Dickinson's design uses a master host (column 9, lines 55-67, Dickinson)).
3. With regards to claim 3, Dickinson teaches a network of systems wherein said master server communicates, through said protocols operated by said interface, with said other servers to transmit any search inquiry to one or more designated servers, and to pass on any updates that a user placed at one of the other servers to designated servers (Dickinson's design allows for the use of one of many protocols, including TCP/IP for network communicating (column 5, line 56

– column 6, line 3, Dickinson). In addition, Dickinson's design uses a master host (column 9, lines 55-67, Dickinson). Furthermore, Dickson's design allows for updated information to be transferred as claimed (column 7, line 48 – column 8, line 26, Dickinson)).

4. With regards to claim 4, Dickinson teaches a network of systems wherein said master server has synchronization function to pass on any update to any of designated other servers through said interface (Dickinson's design has synchronization functions as claimed (column 7, line 48 – column 8, line 26, Dickinson)).
5. With regards to claim 5, Dickinson teaches a network of systems wherein said servers communicate with each other through the reciprocal uniform search interface with predetermined protocols between said servers (As stated, Dickinson's design allows for protocols to be followed by the computers in the network. As in all networks, protocols must be followed for devices to communicate with one another. In Dickinson's design, one such protocol is the TCP/IP protocol (column 5, line 56 – column 6, line 3, Dickinson). Since protocols must be used, and that the business cards are of the same format throughout the network, it is inherent that the search interface must be uniform in Dickinson's design as claimed).

6. With regards to claim 6, Dickinson teaches a network of systems wherein said predetermined protocols are of a uniform operative language (As stated, Dickinson's design allows for the TCP/IP protocol (column 5, line 56 – column 6, line 3, Dickinson). It is inherent that all the devices within the network communicate in a uniform protocol language as claimed for their communication to operate properly).
7. With regards to claim 7, Dickinson teaches a network of systems wherein each of said predetermined protocols is operative at least between two of said servers in consideration of the operative languages of said two servers (As stated, Dickinson's design allows for the TCP/IP protocol (column 5, line 56 – column 6, line 3, Dickinson) for devices, such as servers, within its network. It is inherent that all the devices within the network communicate in an agreed upon protocol as claimed so that the devices know how to communicate with one another).
8. With regards to claim 8, Dickinson teaches a network of systems wherein said predetermined protocols of said servers are operated in Unicode that has correspondence with other Unicode of different languages (Unicode is simply a standard for text involving 16 bits as opposed to 8 bits required by ASCII. Dickinson's design requires the use of text and hence a standard must be used. No limitation is placed as to the type of text standard and hence Unicode is acceptable in Dickinson's design).

9. With regards to claim 9, Dickinson teaches a network of systems wherein said protocols of the interface are capable of transforming a search inquiry placed in a language into other operative languages and thus transmitting the search inquiry to other servers (Dickinson's design provides support for multiple protocols so that different networks are able to communicate (column 6, line 1, Dickinson) (column 8, lines 57 – 67, Dickinson)).
10. With regards to claim 10, Dickinson's design teaches a network of systems wherein said protocols of the interface are capable of transforming a search result into the language corresponding to the language of the search inquiry, and thus transmitting the result back to the server placing the search inquiry (Dickinson's design provides support for multiple protocols so that different networks are able to communicate with each other (column 6, line 1, Dickinson) (column 8, lines 57 – 67, Dickinson)).
11. With regards to claim 11, Dickinson teaches a network of systems wherein said master server has automatic synchronization function to transmit updates to all designated servers whenever an update occurs (Dickinson's design uses a master host (column 9, line 57, Dickinson) in a system that allows for synchronization upon request (column 9, lines 24-32, Dickinson)).

12. With regards to claim 12, Dickinson teaches a method of managing and controlling a network of systems of personal and business web cards, each of said systems including at least a web card server having at least a search engine and a database, said method comprising connecting a plurality of web card servers through the Internet; establishing at least a protocol between two of said servers to enable communication between them including transmission of search inquiries there between; installing said protocols, respectively, in at least two of said servers that communicate with each other', identifying said protocol between the servers to establish connection and communication there between; and transmitting any of said search inquiries and web card information between at least two of said connected servers (Dickinson teaches a design for electronic business cards for use in a network environment (column 2, lines 20-44, Dickinson). It allows for users to browse (search) for business cards (column 7, line 49 – column 8, line 28, Dickinson). In addition, the design allows for an agreed upon search method, hence equivalent to the claimed uniform search interface. Furthermore, each workstations are equivalent to servers and since they have storage means, they are also equivalent to databases. Also, Dickinson's design for central stores which function as large databases for business cards (column 5, lines 15-27, Dickinson). Finally, Dickinson's design provides support for multiple protocols so that different networks are able to communicate (column 6, line 1, Dickinson) (column 8, lines 57 – 67, Dickinson)).

13. With regards to claim 13, Dickinson teaches a method further comprising designating at least one of said web card servers as master server, and installing said protocols in said master server such that the master server is capable of communicating with all of said servers and transmitting any of said search inquires and web card information among the servers, including any update of said web card information (Dickinson's design has a master host (column 9, line 57, Dickinson). Dickinson's design also allows for synchronization and updating of business cards (column 9, lines 24-32, Dickinson). In addition, the design provides support for multiple protocols so that different networks are able to communicate (column 6, line 1, Dickinson) (column 8, lines 57 – 67, Dickinson). Furthermore, Dickinson's design allows for searches as claimed (column 7, line 49 – column 8, line 28, Dickinson)).

14. With regards to claim 14, Dickinson teaches a method further comprising one master server for a particular region, and having all of designated master servers installed with pertinent protocols that enable communication between said master servers and transmission of web card information and search inquires among said master Servers (Dickinson's design provides support for multiple protocols so that different networks are able to communicate with each other (column 6, line 1, Dickinson) (column 8, lines 57 – 67, Dickinson)).

15. With regards to claim 15, Dickinson teaches a method wherein each of said master servers are capable of flashing an update that occurs within a corresponding system of personal information web card, and transmitting such an update to other master servers having designated users, that in turn transmits the update to the designated user so as to synchronize all personal information data files of all designated users (Dickinson's design allows for synchronization and updating of business cards (column 9, lines 24-32, Dickinson)).

16. With regards to claim 16, Dickinson teaches a method wherein said protocol is operative in a uniform Unicode corresponding to Unicode of different languages (Unicode is simply a standard for text involving 16 bits as opposed to 8 bits required by ASCII. Dickinson's design requires the use of text and hence a standard must be used. No limitation is placed as to the type of text standard and hence Unicode is acceptable in Dickinson's design).

Remarks

After careful review of the application, the examiner failed to note any truly unique traits within the design claimed. The claims provided are seen as being general and would benefit from the inclusion of more detailed specifications. In addition, should the applicants have any further details regarding their design that would present their design as being truly unique over the prior art provided by the examiner, they are encouraged to amend the specifications and claims to reflect such changes.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Azizul Choudhury whose telephone number is 703-305-7209. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on 703-308-5221. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AC


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